

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 34, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Furthermore, it is also preferred that the ~~hole~~hole transport material contains a poly(thiophene/styrenesulfonate)-based compound as its major component, and wherein when the hole transport material is dissolved or dispersed in a liquid so that its concentration thereof becomes 2.0 wt %, the liquid contains nonionic impurities having a molecular weight of 5,000 or less, but an amount of the nonionic impurities contained therein is six or less with respect to 1,000 styrene units. This also makes it possible to provide a hole transport material which can more reliably suppress the decrease of light-emission luminance of the organic EL device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention is also directed to a layer having the function of transporting holes and provided in an organic electroluminescent device, the layer being characterized by being formed from a material containing the hole transport material ~~described in claim 1~~described herein as its major component. By using such a layer, it is possible to provide an organic EL device that can suppress the decrease of light-emission luminance.